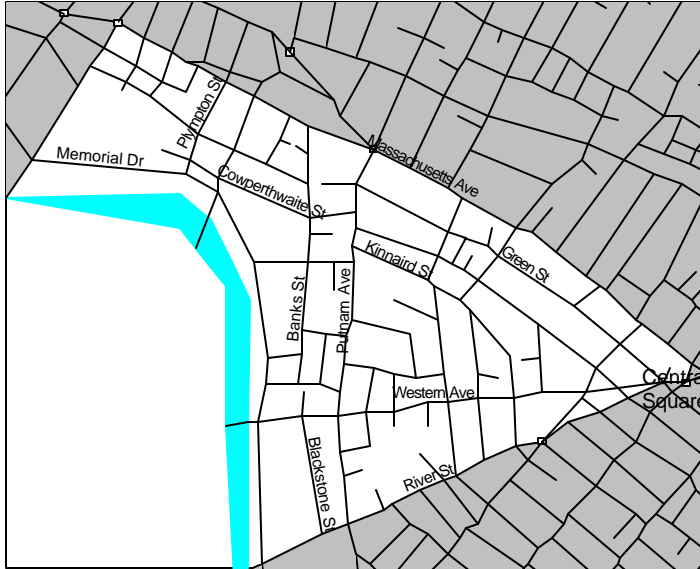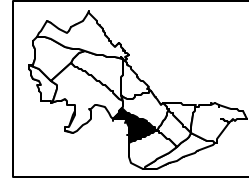# NEIGHBORHOOD 7
RIVERSIDE

BOUNDARIES: bordered by Massachusetts Avenue, River Street, the Charles River, and JFK Street

POPULATION: 10,432 residents
3,341 households

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME:
$27,415

Neighborhood #7 is encompassed within the patrol boundaries of Car 3 (2 officer cars) and Cars 6R and 10R (1 officer cars). Also included within its boundaries are walking routes 7A and 7B.

2001 THIRD QUARTER REVIEW

Overall, crime has experienced a significant increase in Riverside this quarter when compared to last year's statistics. ? **Auto thefts** increased the most with 42 incidents, up from 16 last year. Most of the incidents occurred late in the week and into the weekend. ? Due to the recent graffiti spree in Cambridge, **malicious destruction** numbers rose 24%, making it the most frequently committed crime in Riverside this quarter. Motor vehicles were also a popular target for destruction. Most had their tires slashed and/or had their car window broken. ? **Street robberies** have dropped by nearly half this quarter. Although no one was hurt in any of the robberies, there were not any arrests either. All of the incidents happened at nighttime when victims were walking alone. ? Of the 45 housebreaks this quarter, 2 resulted in arrests after the perpetrators attempted to break into apartments through their windows. The main way entrance was gained in the breaks was via window and/or tampering with a door lock. The upper end of Mass Ave. reported a spree in July and August where stolen items include various high-end electronics as well as jewelry and cash. ? **Larcenies from motor vehicles** occurred mostly on the upper end of Mass Ave. as well as the surrounding areas of Central Square where entrance was gained by prying a door lock open and/or breaking a window. ? **Drug arrests** rose significantly in Riverside during the third quarter, consisting of mainly low level sales of marijuana.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS
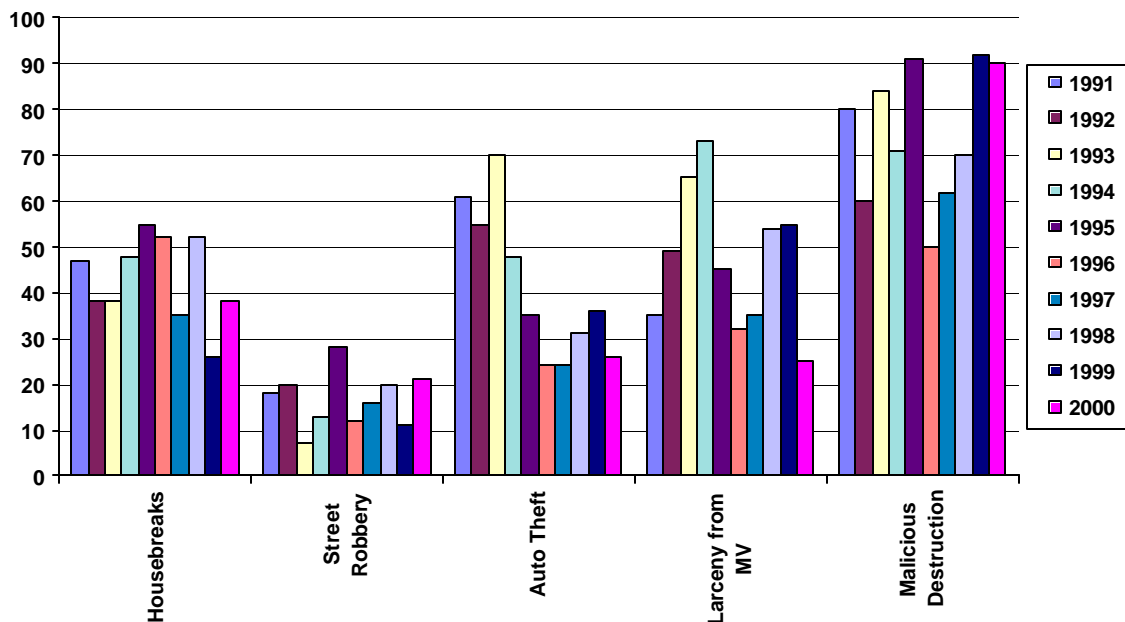## THIRD QUARTER 2000 & 2001

CRIME	3rd Q 2000	3rd Q 2001	% CHANGE
Housebreaks	26	45	+ 73%
Street Robbery	15	8	- 47%
Auto Theft	16	42	+ 163%
Larceny from MVs	19	27	+ 42%
Malicious Destruction	65	85	+ 31%
Drug Arrests	11	18	+ 64%

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE AND HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

Riverside has the fourth highest population in the city, but it ranks well below the average for almost all index crimes. Along with its 10 thousand residents, Riverside has two housing developments (Putnam Gardens and the River-Howard homes), two major parks (Hoyt Field and Riverside Press Park), and many commercial establishments along Massachusetts Avenue, River Street, and Western Avenue. Several Harvard University dormitories and other properties occupy the northwestern quarter. Riverside's borders also encompass the United States Post Office and the Cambridge Police Department headquarters.

Harvard University, which has its own police department, patrols Harvard property in the northwestern part of the neighborhood. Our statistics do not reflect most incidents that occur on university property.

- **Malicious destruction** is the only crime that has not shown a significant average decline in Riverside since the 1980s, though it is low compared to the rest of the city. Most of this vandalism occurs to motor vehicles. Occasional patterns of this crime over long holiday weekends have been a problem in the past.

- **Street robberies** are low for a neighborhood of Riverside's population, but they remain a pressing problem. Most of these incidents are on Western Avenue. Riverside has an exceptionally low **housebreak** rate for its size; a few clusters appear on Franklin and Kinnaird Streets, and at Putnam Gardens.

- Hoyt Field, the site of a murder in the Summer of 1997, has long been considered a **robbery** and **narcotics** hot spot.

- The only neighborhoods with lower **auto theft** and **larceny from motor vehicles** totals have less than half of Riverside's population.

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR RIVERSIDE AREA TARGET CRIMES					
Crime	*1981-1990*	*Rank 81-90**	*1991-2000*	*Rank 91-00**	*Rank 2000**
Housebreaks	83	7	43	6	4
Street Robbery	34	4	17	6	3
Auto Theft	92	9	41	9	9
Larceny from MVs	87	7	48	9	10
Malicious Destruction	78	9	74	8	6

*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest